Operations Support

ACCOUNTING FOR UNITS, INSTALLATIONS,
AND AEROSPACE VEHICLES

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Pages: 4
Distribution: F

1. To support national military objectives, the Air Force's senior leaders must know precisely what units and forces are at their disposal. Accurate numbers are also essential for purposes such as arms control negotiations and budgeting. This policy ensures accuracy by establishing standard methods of naming and counting units, installations, and aerospace vehicles.

2. The Air Force will designate and name aerospace vehicles according to established guidelines and standard conventions for assigning mission design series (MDS) designations. HQ USAF/PE will approve MDS before use.

3. The Air Force will maintain an accurate accounting of current installations, units, and aerospace vehicles.

4. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

4.1. Headquarters US Air Force (HQ USAF) is responsible for policy oversight and advocacy of the Air Force's Installations Program and for interface with the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff concerning development of Department of Defense (DoD) policy and legislative initiatives.

4.2. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment (SAF/MI) is responsible for accounting for units, installations, and aerospace vehicles policy matters as described in Air Force Policy Directive 90-1, *Strategic Planning and Policy Formulation,* paragraph 1.5.2. SAF/MI approval is required before this document is changed, reissued, or rescinded.

4.3. Commanders of the major commands (MAJCOM), Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve report changes in installations, units, nd aerospace vehicles under their command to HQ USAF/XOO and HQ USAF/PED. These changes include activation, assignment, transfer, renaming, orinactivation.

4.4. Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (HQ AFMC) reports inventories of aerospace vehicles, along with actual flying hours flown, by the 10th workday after the 1st day of each month to HQ USAF/PED.

4.5. MAJCOMs, field operating agencies, direct reporting units, the Air Force Reserve, and the National Guard Bureau ask HQ USAF/XOOB whenever they need to move units from one installation to another. They also report changes in units and installations to HQ USAF/XOOB by the 7th day of each month (RCS:HAF-XOO(M)9227, *Programming Actions Involving Units, Installations, and Unit Equipment).*

4.6. Twice each budget year, HQ USAF/PE publishes a report on *US Air Force Aerospace Vehicles and Flying Hours,* and HQ USAF/XO publishes a report on *Installations, Units, and Priorities* each budget year.

4.7. HQ USAF/PE administers the MDS designator program and approves MDS designators.

4.8. SAF/PA coordinates on proposed popular names for aerospace vehicles, but the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs approves them.

4.9. Air Force Legal Services Agency (Judge Advocate General Patent Division) does trademark searches on proposed popular names for aerospace vehicles.

4.10. Aeronautical Systems Center (Engineering Documents Branch) is the Air Force and DoD's single point of contact concerning MDS designators and popular names for aerospace vehicles.

5. Each of the DoD's aerospace vehicles has an MDS designator that uses standard symbols to reflect its mission design series. An example of a standard designator is RF-4C. The "4" shows that it is the fourth MDS designator requested for a fighter aircraft.The "R" shows that an F-4C has been modified for Reconnaissance. The "C" indicates the third production model of the F-4.

6. This directive applies to the US Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, and Air Force Aero Clubs.

7. This directive implements DoD Directive 4120.15, *Designating and Naming Military Aerospace Vehicles,* May 2, 1985, and DoD 4160.21-M, *Defense Reutilization and Marketing Manual,* March 1990, with Change 1.

8. Related instructions are in AFI 16-401, *Designating and Naming Defense Military Aerospace Vehicles* (formerly AFR 82-1); AFI 16-402, *Aerospace Vehicle Assignment, Distribution, Accounting, and Termination* (formerly AFR 27-15); and AFI 16-403, *USAF Program Management of Installations and Unit Data, and Movement of Air Force Units* (formerly AFR 27-16).

9. See **Attachment 1** for measures used to comply with this policy.

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Director of Programs and Evaluation

Attachment 1

MEASURING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A1.1. HQ USAF/PED will measure the success of this policy by charting and evaluating accuracy of inventories and use of standard MDS designators.

A1.1.1. MAJCOMs report inventories on aerospace vehicles and net changes as of the last day of each month to HQ USAF/PED. This report RCS: HAF-PED(M)7201, *HQ USAF Aerospace Vehicle Inventory,* arrives at HQ USAF/PED by the 10th workday after the 1st of each month. It continues during **MINIMIZE** conditions. By taking actual inventories and comparing them to these reports, we can determine a percentage of accuracy in reporting. Our goal is at least 95-percent accuracy in reporting the data, with a trend toward 100 percent (**Figure A1.1.**).

A1.1.2. Aeronautical Systems Center reports nonstandard or unauthorized use of MDS designators in the RCS: HAF-PED(AR)9229, *Nonstandard or Unauthorized Use of Aerospace Vehicle Designators.* They send this information when required by HQ USAF/PED but discontinue reporting during emergency conditions (**Figure A1.2.**). Our goal is a downward trend toward zero.

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Accounting Accuracy: Installations, Units, & Aerospace Vehicles.

Accounting Accuracy: Installations, Units, & Aerospace Vehicles

Desired Trend

PERCENT

Data Notional

YEAR

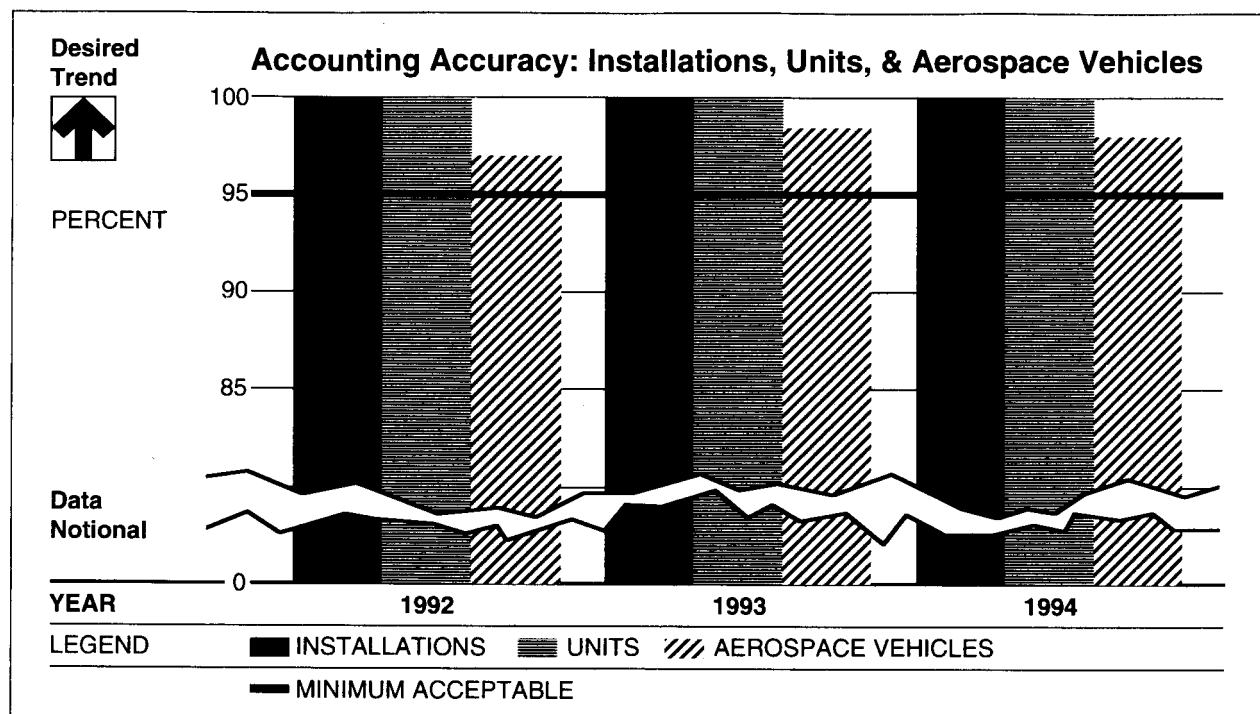LEGEND ■ INSTALLATIONS ▓ UNITS ▨ AEROSPACE VEHICLES
— MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE

Figure A1.2. Sample Metric of MDS Designators -- Trends.

MDS Designators – Trends

Desired Trend

NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES

Example Data is Notional

F-117A   C-20F (ARMY)

YEAR   CY88   CY89   CY90   CY91   CY92   CY93   CY94   CY95

LEGEND ■ NONSTD DESIGNATOR ▓ UNAUTHORIZED USE